



No. **1** ²⁰/₁₂



TRANS TRIBUNE

*Chronicle of
Warrior Logistics
in Motion!*

598th Transportation Brigade (SDDC), Rotterdam, The Netherlands



DEPLOYMENT TRAINING

Camp Darby, Italy - 839th Transportation Battalion NCOs assembled to re-familiarize on 463L pallet building.

Read more on Page 7

"Warrior Logistics - In Motion"



598th TRANS TRIBUNE

**Volume 11, Number 1
1st Issue 2012**

SDDC 598th TRANS TRIBUNE

This newsletter is an official publication authorized under Army Regulation 360-1 and is published quarterly by Chief, Command Affairs, SDDC 598th Trans Bde overseas. The 598th Trans Tribune provides information of people, activities and operations of the 598th Transportation Brigade. Views and opinions expressed in this electronic newsletter are not necessarily those of the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command. All photos, unless otherwise noted, are U.S. Army photo's. We reserve the right to edit all material for style, to fit available space, to resolve libel, force protection and grammar.

**Commander
Colonel William L. Moseley**

**Brigade Sergeant Major
Vacant**

**Editor
Chief, Command Affairs / PAO
Bram de Jong**

**Asst Editor/CAO
Martin Weteling**

*Forward input for this newsletter to the Editor via e-mail
bram.dejong2@us.army.mil
or call DSN 362-2460 or Commercial +31 10 4592460*

Commander's Corner

*By Colonel William L. Moseley
Commander
598th Transportation Brigade
(SDDC)*



Budget cuts, downsizing, deactivating units, relocating units, BRAC, “back to basics”, lower promotion rates, reduced troop strength, canceling major weapon systems programs, etc. None of this is new and we have seen and heard this before and we will not allow it to diminish our focus on our mission and the accomplishment of our mission. These things have historically happened after every war or major engagement and the end of Operation New Dawn (OND) is no different. How we choose to react is the key to success: we can either wring our hands or roll-up our sleeves and get to the task at hand. Our success is always dependent on the human factor...our outstanding Workforce will ensure we meet all our missions while being more efficient and cost effective.

The OPTEMPO has not slowed one bit and is expected to increase as can be seen by the instability around the world, the increase of humanitarian support, and the engagement operations across Africa and Europe. We must continue to focus on deployability and our ability to operate in austere environments. I along with our battalion command teams recently attended the annual SDDC Commanders Conference and Training Symposium and we learned budgets are being scrutinized and SDDC is looking out to 2020 with their Campaign Plan. The only thing constant is change and we must change or become irrelevant. The 598th Warlog Brigade continues to do amazing things across Europe and Africa and I am still in awe of the dedication and commitment of the Workforce. We continue to receive new personnel and previous Workforce members rotate out as happens in most U.S. Army units however; the standard remains the same and we continue to accomplish the mission.

The environment is dynamic and we must continue to be prepared for future contingencies and remain focused on our missions. Our successes will continue as our Workforce is professional and dedicated. Thanks for all you do each and every day.



1M1H1P
*Warrior Logistics In Motion
Colonel William L. Moseley*

JEADDC

ADAPTING TO CHALLENGE AND CHANGE

JEADDC 2011 – the focus on adapting to challenge and change

*Article and photos by Martin Weteling,
598th Transportation Brigade (SDDC)
Public Affairs Officer*

The Edelweiss Lodge and Resort was used for this year's Joint EUCOM AFRICOM Deployment and Distribution Conference in the southern-German city, Garmisch Partenkirchen. Well over 400 military and industry partners gathered together to discuss topics related to this year's theme; **'Adapting to challenge and change'**. The United States Africa Command (AFRICOM) with the United States European Command (EUCOM) and the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC) hosted the event.

One of the key leaders attending the JEADDC was SDDC's Major General Kevin Leonard. Maj. Gen. Leonard addressed the audience during a senior leader panel and talked about the upcoming changes and the need to adapt and anticipate. He also described how a change of culture is needed to maintain the expeditionary organization SDDC is today, with global presence. Maj. Gen. Leonard stated; *"SDDC's goal is the success of the Global Combatant Commanders (GCC), their components and supported agencies."* With lots of changes on the way the need to adapt is bigger than ever in a rapidly changing culture. Maj. Gen. Leonard emphasized the importance of commercial industry by pointing out they are the workforce in a more commercialized operating theater. Delivering trust was one of the keypoints from SDDC's commanding general.



■ Senior Leaders gather at the stairs of the Edelweiss Lodge and resort at the 2011 Joint EUCOM and AFRICOM Deployment and Distribution Conference (JEADDC) in Garmisch Partenkirchen, Germany last December.



■ Maj. Gen. Kevin Leonard, SDDC's commanding general addresses attendees at JEADDC.

The stage of the main ballroom was used by Major General Barbara Faulkenberry, the Deputy Director for Logistics, U.S. Africa command as a platform on the first day of the conference. Maj. Gen. Faulkenberry opened the conference and highlighted the importance of the ability to adapt to challenge and change in a rapidly changing theater of operations. *"Get value for my organization from attendees, industry, academia and services"*, Maj. Gen. Faulkenberry said referring to the importance of the conference. Maj. Gen. Faulkenberry talked about the tough times for the Department of Defense and said there is a need to look for ways to be more

effective and efficient. This leads to an unprecedented challenge called “Adapting to Change”, the conference motto.

During a ‘State of the Theater’, Colonel Bill Krahling, Chief EUCOM Deployment and Distribution Operations Center (EDDOC), addressed a captive audience with his presentation about his organization. Col. Krahling explained the way the EDDOC operates from the Theater Distribution Plan to the EDDOC involvement in the Northern Distribution Network. Col. Krahling emphasized the need for cooperation in order to achieve mission success by showing a film about the European Command. Col. Krahling was followed by Colonel Joseph Mancy from the Africom Deployment and Distribution Operations Center. Mancy talked about the challenges for AFRICOM. Serving an area of responsibility covering 11.7 million square miles with, sometimes challenging infrastructure to execute their mission with the goal to leave the place better than when it was found. Closing the State of the Theater was Col. Bill Moseley, commander 598th Transportation Brigade (SDDC). Col. Moseley showed the audience the change of his unit to an expeditionary rapid response unit with the ability to operate under austere conditions serving the combatant commander in an area of responsibility. Col. Moseley highlighted the ongoing successful Northern Distribution Network (NDN) shipments. 55,000 twenty foot equivalent containers (TEU) were shipped in the last year, via the NDN where to date 81,000 TEUs have been delivered, a marked milestone.

Keynote speaker for the event was Rear Admiral Thomas Traaen, Commander Defense Logistics Agency. Rear Adm. Traaen explained how experiences from the past help to better the organization in the future. He explained how working the devastating situation in Haiti after the earthquake showed that the organization felt the need to get better at working with other parts of the government. One of the key items taken from that was how to ensure people are trained and can perform the work tasked to do. “*How do you build a baseline of logistic expertise to ensure you can meet the situation you find*”, said Rear Adm. Traaen, further explaining the complexity and uncertainty coming with natural disasters. It calls for using existing strategy so we don’t have to start from scratch every time you arrive somewhere.

During a Senior Leader Panel. Maj. Gen. Kevin Leonard, SDDC, Maj. Gen. Barbara Faulkenberry, AFRICOM, Brigadier General Lynn Collyar,



■ Senior Leader panel at JEADDC. Maj. Gen. Faulkenberry (AFRICOM), Maj. Gen. Leonard (SDDC), Brig. Gen. Collyar (DLA), Brig. Gen. Chiarotti (MFA/MFE), and Col. Meersman (EUCOM) presented the audience with their vision on the conference's theme: “Adapting to challenge and change”.

DLA, Brigadier General Charles Chiarotti, MFA/MFE, and Colonel Jim Meersman, EUCOM, took the time to unveil their vision on adapting to challenge and change. Whilst presenting, the senior leaders took the time to inform the audience of different matters from within the respective organizations.

Brig. Gen. Collyar presented a Defense Logistics Agency vision on an optimized distribution network which integrates transport with infrastructure, stock positioning, and information systems being cost effective. “*We need to become effective before we become efficient, much more efficient*”, he told the audience. The austerity of the African continent and the capable crisis response capability was what Marine Forces Africa and Marine Forces Europe Brig. Gen. Chiarotti talked about during his time on the main stage. Brig. Gen. Chiarotti expressed the need to regionalize logistics to support the mission on the African continent. Logistical support for the areas of responsibility for the European Command and the African command formed the main topic of the conference. How to streamline and bridge logistical capabilities to better serve the forces operating in theater.

During the conference there were many different working groups and panels where attendees could gather and exchange valuable information, leading to meaningful discussions and food for thought for the future.



■ The Expeditionary Logistics workshop at JEADDC. 598th Trans BDE's Planner, Stacey Vande Linde led this workshop where the increase of deployment and distribution operability between combatant commanders was of importance for a diverse audience.

In working groups, such as the Expeditionary Logistics working group led by Stacey Vande Linde, planner for the 598th Transportation Brigade (SDDC), information was exchanged to improve the process. The workgroup in which Vande Linde participated provided information regarding the utilization of Joint Task Force Port Opening (JTF-PO), which is a USTRANSCOM asset, and the European Port Opening (EPO), which is a EUCOM concept, within the EUCOM and AFRICOM AORS. Both JTF-PO and EPO concepts allow for areial ports (APOD) to be opened rapidly during a time of crisis within EUCOM in order to increase the Combants Commanders efficiency once on ground. The JTF-PO concept, however, was established by USTRANSCOM to deploy globally with elements from the Airforce, Navy and Army in order to rapidly open both aerial and sea ports during crisis in any COCOM.

There were also disucusions surrounding the possible integration of DLA expeditionary logistics into both the JTF-PO and EPO concepts in order to increase deployment and distribution operability and efficiencies between combatant commanders and across the enterprise. One of the outcomes was an agreement between the 598th Transportation Brigade (SDDC) and the EUCOM Deployment and Distribution Operations Center (EDDOC) where deploying teams from the 598th Transportation Brigade (SDDC) will get all the needed support from EUCOM. Vande Linde; *"we hope to adapt our tactics, techniques, and procedures to meet the objectives set."*

Following disruptions on the Pakistani Ground Lines of Communication (PAK GLOC), the Northern Distribution Network (NDN) proved to be a hot topic and the working group, led by CPT David Mackintosh, 598th Trans BDE NDN Ops, presented to a full house. Key panel members included Joe Schott, 598th Trans BDE OCCA Chief, LTC Alan Oprsal, 595th Trans BDE NDN Liaison Officer, and Pete Soule, SDDC COC. Pete Soule briefed the new surface and multi-modal routes to Afghanistan which SDDC has added since the March 2011 NDN Conference held in Rotterdam. He was followed by LTC Oprsal who provided the latest news regarding the then ongoing negotiations for bi-directional flow, which were completed shortly after the conference. Additionally, Joe Schott presented updates on changes in the booking process, including the recent implementation of a one price to the shipper booking model for all surface cargo being transported to Afghanistan, regardless of routing. Finally, panel members responded to a variety of



■ EUCOM and the 598th Trans BDE (SDDC) signed an Airlift MOA between 598th and EUCOM-J4 outlining how the two organizations will support and assist one another if the need for expeditionary port capabilities arise. EUCOM's Col. Krahling and 598th Trans BDE (SDDC) Col. Moseley signing the document.

stakeholder questions concerning this complex transportation network.

The conference concluded with a wrap-up of all that had taken place. A great amount of information and material was gathered to work issues that arose during the conference. This in order to increase distribution, deployment and logistics interoperability within theater. JEADDC 2012 will be the proof of how successful this conference was. ■



■ JEASSC's Northern Distribution Network working groep was hugely popular with the attendees at the conference.

AS54

UNITED KINGDOM DETACHMENT
NEWPORT - SOUTH WALES - UK



Article and photo by Marc Allen,
SDDC UK, Marine Cargo Specialist

The SDDC UK Detachment planned and executed an ammunition operation in Newport, South Wales, United Kingdom 19 thru 20 November 2011. The mission title was Ammunition Supply 54 or AS54 for short. For this UK mission the 838th Transportation Battalion Commander, Lt.Col. John Gallagher and Operations Chief Captain Christopher Jones were in attendance so the UK Detachment really were on parade for this one! Everything had to work properly and thankfully it did just that. This particular mission is a very complex one to plan with many factors to consider and many months of planning in advance had to take place before execution. Newport has the second highest tidal system in the world at 40 feet difference so when planning we pay close attention to the tidal window to allow vessels to be used in the mission in and out of the lock. We also have to plan when we work at the port because of the Net Explosive Weight (NEW) of the munitions. In this mission we had 20,000 kilograms (20 tons approximate) of NEW so this meant we would have to work at night as the amount is far too high over the 3000kgs day limit.

The *MV Virginian* was the MSC chartered vessel carrying the containerized munitions and the UK had twenty nine to discharge from the ship which were consigned to USAFE Air Force Base RAF Lakenheath. The *MV Virginian* is far too large to traverse the Newport locks and with her massive amount of NEW loaded on board already she could not come any closer to port than the in-stream location six miles out to sea in the Bristol Channel. The UK Detachment would have to work an in-stream operation with the aid of an additional smaller vessel called a lighter which would be procured through SDDC 598th



■ Unloading containers from the *MV Virginian* to the Vessel *Dollart*.

Trans Brigade and Military Sealift Command. The vessel would become the *BBC Dollart* which could carry in the region of one hundred and fifty TEU containers and it was small enough to enter the Newport lock system.

The two vessels would make rendezvous at the in-stream location early hours of 19 November 2011 and all the supporting cast would make their way from a small marina called Penarth not far from Newport on two launch vessels. Once all personnel had arrived and boarded the two vessels the stevedoring gang would free up the twenty nine containers which had long before been identified in the planning process, on the *MV Virginian* and were correctly stowed. The unloading of the containers from the *MV Virginian* to the Lighter vessel *Dollart* began well with the *Virginian's* own gantry crane rolling up and down her deck solidly although at not great pace. Container transshipment operations ceased late in the day so with the *Dollart* loaded as per IMDG for her short voyage to the Newport locks SDDC UK Detachment/838th personnel together with supporting UK authority, MSC representative Mark Bigelow made their way to the waiting launch for the journey back to Penarth marina. By the time Penarth was reached the *Dollart* lighter vessel was steaming for Newport and was waiting for high tide to enter the locks.

After some down time and a well earned break SDDC personnel headed back to Newport to meet the lighter vessel *Dollart* coming through the Newport lock system and berthing to the discharge point. The trucking company was in place and after all checks had been completed the shore side crane was started up and discharge from the vessel to the trucks commenced in accordance with ADR segregation for onward road movement to final destination of RAF Lakenheath. The discharge went really well quickly and above all safely with no incident and concluded with the port of Newport being cleared of the containers early hours of 20 November 2011.

This was yet another complex mission which was planned meticulously as it demands it should be and passed by without incident. ■

838th Trans Battalion Deployed a Deployment Distribution Support Team (DDST) in support of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 5 in Ghana, Africa



*Article and photos by
Sgt. 1st Class Jaime Ramos
838th Operations NCO*

The Benelux Detachment, 838th Transportation Battalion, 598th Transportation Brigade (SDDC) deployed a small DDST from 15-20 Nov 11 in support of the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 5 deployment to the Port of Tema, Ghana. The team consisted of Mario Smits, Lead Marine Cargo Specialist (MCS) and Sgt. 1st Class Jamie Ramos, 838th Operations NCO.

The main focus for the DDST during this deployment was to execute and validate the movement of cargo through the Global Force Management (GFM) program, conduct Contracting Officer Representative and Military Cargo Specialist functions. The team acted quickly to resolve and to expedite Diplomatic Clearances, Customs, and Port fees issues in order to ensure all cargo was delivered on time for the mission. ■



■ Mario Smits, 838th Transportation Battalion, Benelux Detachment, Marine Cargo Specialist, observes a stevedore from the port of Tema, Ghana, hooking up a lift cable to a 10K Forklift to be transferred to a flatbed and make the journey to the Ghana Naval Base. The equipment belonging to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 5 (NMCB5) will be utilized for renovations to the Naval Base facilities as part of partnership programs between the U.S. Government and the country of Ghana.



■ Mario Smits, 838th Transportation Battalion, Benelux Detachment, Marine Cargo Specialist and a stevedore team of the Port of Tema, Ghana, supervise and observe a piece of equipment that belongs to the U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 5 (NMCB5), be cautiously lift from a moffett trailer and placed onto a flatbed trailer to be transferred to the Tema Naval Base.

Ammo Support Mission AS 54 Eemshaven, NL



■ *Container operations at the Port of Eemshaven, Holland's most northern port.*

*Article and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Ursula A. Harding
838th Transportation Battalion (SDDC), Operations NCOIC*



The 838th Transportation Battalion HQ and Benelux Detachment deployed to the port of Eemshaven, The Netherlands in support of ***Ammo Support Mission 54 (AS 54)*** from 10-15 November 11. Their mission, conducted on short

notice, consisted of the download of 355 containers and the upload of 217 containers aboard the *MV Virginian* while simultaneously testing the units Emergency Deployment Readiness procedures and the set up of the Mobile Port Operation Center (MPOC).

Working in cold rainy conditions the 838th worked hard ensuring safety first throughout the operation. Captain Brian Jones, 838th Operations Officer during his first port operation stated, *"It was a lot of work with lots of moving parts, but with everybody working together as a team from start to finish, it was a success"*.

600 miles away in Newport South Wales the United Kingdom Detachment prepared to receive the *MV Virginian* on 17 Nov 11. A lighter vessel, *MV Dollart*, met the *MV Virginian* and worked an in-stream operation with 29 UK import containers discharged from the *Virginian*.

The *MV Virginian* continued on with its mission and the lighter vessel then entered the port of Newport where it discharged 29 containers to trucks for onward movement to RAF Lakenheath USAF base England, United Kingdom.



■ *Containers placed on rail wagons by Eemshaven Port contractor personnel.*

10th Combat Aviation Brigade Redeployment

By Staff Sgt. Edward Jones & Staff Sgt. Nadia Smith, Movements NCOs, 839th Transportation Battalion

Members of the 839th Transportation Battalion's Italy Detachment with support from the Deployment and Distribution Support Team (DDST) deployed to Naval Station (NS) Rota, Spain from 21-29 October 2011 to assist in the redeployment of the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB) back to their home station of Fort Drum, NY after a yearlong tour in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). Also supporting the mission were local Stevedoring and Related Terminal Services (S&RTS) contractors and the Theater Aviation Sustainment Manager-Europe (TASM-E) from Kaiserslautern, Germany.

The Battalion's mission consisted of documenting and uploading 248 pieces of cargo and equipment which ranged from Attack and Support Helicopters, HMMWVs with trailers, and containerized unit cargo. Documentation Specialists utilized the Deployable-GATES (D-GATES) and its Hand Held Terminals (HHT) to process the cargo information for water shipment, and Marine Cargo Specialists (MCS) used the Integrated Computerized Deployment System (ICODES) V6 to build the ship's stow plan. The mission was the unit's first vessel upload utilizing D-GATES and ICODES V6 since the World Wide Port System (WPS) migrated to GATES, and the new ICODES version was fielded. Documentation Specialists and MCS's experienced numerous problems with technical issues and connectivity during the mission, but somehow found a way to maintain 100% accountability of equipment data within both systems resulting in mission success. The ARC Freedom was the vessel chosen to take these "Eagles in the Sky" along with their support equipment back across the Atlantic to their port of debarkation in Philadelphia, PA, where another TASM unit along with the S&RTS contractors awaited the vessel's arrival.

In conclusion, the Italy Detachment accomplished the mission with no injuries to personnel or damage to equipment during the upload. The vessel master received all necessary documentation (manifest, stow plan, Hazardous Declarations) needed before setting sail. All personnel and equipment made it back to home station safely with a sense of accomplishment of yet another successful port mission completed by the 839th Transportation Battalion's Workforce in support of OEF. ■



▲ The first convoy of UH-60 Blackhawks arrive at Pier 1.



► Staff Sergeant Edward Jones and Staff Sergeant Nadia Smith, Movements NCOs, 839th Transportation Battalion, verify manifest data against equipment staged at the pier at NS Rota, Spain.

▼ TASM-E contractors drive a UH-60 Blackhawk into the ARC Freedom.



■ Photos by Major William Kost, XO, 839th Transportation Battalion

839th TRANS BN (SDDC) 463L PALLET BUILDING



Article and photos
by Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Wister,
839th Trans Bn, Documentation NCO



Camp Darby, Italy -- On 13 October 2011, 839th Transportation Battalion NCOs assembled to re-familiarize on 463L pallet building. Staff Sgt. Charles Gutierrez, from the 598th Transportation Brigade S3 provided instruction on all the steps from inspecting a 463L pallet and cargo nets, to load and tie-down.

During class, the Soldiers loaded different types of cargo onto 463L pallets. The first cargo to be loaded onto a pallet were two 5K generators, with tent flooring and cots loaded on top. After that, a second pallet was built, loaded with MREs, additional tent flooring, cots, and other miscellaneous equipment. The cargo straps were added and then the cargo nets were installed.



■ Staff Sgt. Charles Gutierrez from the 598th Trans BDE S3 instructs 839th Trans Bn personnel about air pallet building. From left to right: Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Wister, 839th; Staff Sgt. Philip Goodwin, 839th; Staff Sgt. Charles Gutierrez, 598th; Staff Sgt. Delano Hamler, 839th; Staff Sgt. Cesar Salcedo-Acosta, 839th; and Staff Sgt. Nadia Smith, 839th.



Unity in Action: DCMA Move in Eastern Med



By Staff Sgt. Philip C. Goodwin,
839th Trans Bn,
Documentation NCO, SI NCOIC

Members of the 839th Transportation Battalion's Greece Detachment and the Battalion Headquarters recently deployed to the Eastern Mediterranean to send 84 containers back to the United States. The team worked for several days to ensure that all of the pieces of the puzzle fit together seamlessly, coordinating with the host nation, stevedoring contractors, and the Defense Contractor Management Agency (DCMA). The documentation section lead by Michael Pittas, from the Greece Detachment, ensured that all of the equipment was administratively processed and the each container had a Military Shipping Label (MSL) and a Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID) tag prepared for it. The Military Cargo Specialists (MCS) worked diligently on the pre-stow plan that ensured that all of the



containers were destined for the correct positions on the ship to minimize any complications while traveling back to the United States.

Although there were rough patches along the way, the crew always adapted and found a way to overcome every obstacle and completed the mission in a timely manner. The hardest obstacle that the team had to overcome was reverse cycle work hours causing the team to shift their sleep and work patterns from working in the day to working at night. Despite the long night's work, the members of the 839th Team ensured that everything was complete and the vessel sailed back to the United States with no complications.■

■ Photo by Captain. Roberta Hatch, DCMA

Loading Of Containerized Housing Units At Port Of Piraeus, Greece



■ Loading Containerized Housing Units (CHUs) on the MV Freedom.

Article and picture by George Kokonos, Terminal Manager, Greece Detachment, 839th Trans BN

It has been almost 15 years since we loaded a vessel in the Port of Piraeus, where the Greece Detachment, 839th Transportation Battalion is located. Almost half of our employees have never experienced a vessel in their home port. Contrary to the normal cargo movement of vehicles and containers through Greek ports, supporting U.S. Forces in Greece and in the Balkans, the unit was required to accommodate the loading of 37 Containerized Housing Containers (CHUs) from Camp Bondsteel (CBS) in Kosovo, destined to Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti, Africa.

Discussions between Ocean Cargo Clearance Authority (OCCA) in Rotterdam, the shipper, and our office determined that the most cost effective method to ship them would be to load them on a Roll-on/Roll-off (RORO) vessel from Piraeus, using an ARC vessel to pick them up on her way to their destination.

Personnel of the Greece Detachment coordinated with the Movement Control Team at CBS, the Defense Attaché Office in the U.S. Embassy

Athens and the Hellenic (Greek) Army for the diplomatic clearance for the road movement of the CHUs coming on trucks from Kosovo.

The Hellenic military police escorted the trucks from the border all the way to our terminal, to include an overnight enroute stop, ensuring safe delivery. All 37 CHUs arrived in four convoys within a period of two weeks, downloaded and staged free-of-charge at our facility, awaiting the vessel's arrival.

The ARC RORO vessel *MV FREEDOM*, M2966, arrived on the morning of 19 Sep 11 at pier G4 in Piraeus. All CHUs were pre-staged at the pier the day prior to ensure prompt loading upon the vessel's arrival. The loading commenced at 0830 hours using MAFI trailers and downloading the CHUs with a forklift on the main deck. A total of 104 LT, 1085 MT and 5920 SQ FT were loaded. Operations, to include lashing, were completed by 1330 hours with no accidents.

Both ARC representatives, Mr. Jacob Granqvist, Regional Port Captain, and Mr. Zervakis, ARC's local representative, who were present during loading, highly commended the Greece Detachment personnel for a job well done. Granqvist was astonished by the efficiency and effectiveness, and stated that he would love to see the same performance in other ports by SDDC personnel. Teamwork and the combined efforts of the shipper, SDDC personnel, the port services contractor and host nation support resulted in outstanding support to our deployed forces.■



The 598th Trans Tribune

is a Command Affairs tool to keep you informed about what's happening within the 598th Transportation Brigade!

I would like to thank all author's and photographers for their input and **important!**; continue to mail your articles, hints, ideas and pictures! Many thanks, your Editor, bram.dejong2@us.army.mil

598th Department Army Civilian Corner

By Stephen L. Marshall, Deputy to the Commander

Extensions, what is the **five year rule** all about? First there is no five year rule that exists for overseas tours. What exists is a set of orders committing the employee to a three year tour and in return the Department of Defense and the losing organization agree to keep the employee's position available for their return at completion of those three years.

So where does the five years come from? During the 1970's-80's there was a tremendous turn-over of highly skilled civilians and USAREUR offered mission critical civilians an additional two years of job guarantee if they would remain overseas. This was coordinated with the losing command and was normally approved. However, with all things, it was not always a guarantee. Thus some confuse the issues by believing there is a five year rule when there simply is no such rule.

However, when the time comes, as a civilian here in Europe, we have many options when we end our three years of overseas service. I will list a few and you can see what fits your situation;

- **Exercise return rights:** Most, if not all, civilians hired from the U.S. are guaranteed return rights to their old position after their initial three year tour. Exercising this option makes the most sense and is the safest and easiest to do.

- **PPP (Priority Placement Program):** This program is available to all civilians nearing the end of their assignment overseas. It is preferred that employees get on PPP as soon as possible after realizing they will not be extended. PPP allows employees to enter themselves in a program that automatically refers them to all job vacancies that they are qualified for in the geographic area they select. This area will change and broaden depending on the amount of time an employee is on PPP...more on that later. The PPP moves individuals registered in the program to the top of lists of consideration for jobs they are qualified for. They will receive priority consideration for those vacancies but that is not a guarantee. The only candidates receiving higher consideration on a vacancy list are U.S. candidates losing jobs due to BRAC (Base Realignment and Closures) and RIF (Reduction

in Force) actions. It is a great program and works...albeit not for everyone. If your resume is not up to date, does not reflect your real qualifications, or you specify an area without your job specialty, you may never get a reassignment using this method, leaving you less options. There are two items about PPP that all employees must be aware of:

- An employee with return rights to a former CONUS position may go on PPP and remain there until a job offer is made or their DEROS arrives. At this time the employee must return to their former CONUS position.

- If you were an overseas hire or you have exhausted the time limit on your return rights, then you remain on PPP until you are provided a job offer in CONUS. Once you are on PPP you cannot be extended later.

- **Retire:** For some civilians this may be their final assignment in which case you can retire. If you elect not to accept a PPP offer you can retire as well.

- **Resign:** it is like retirement with the exception there is no retired pay involved.

Now some of our 598th employee's think one of two schools of thought, first...I deserve to be here because I like it and I am doing a good job so why can't I be extended? Second, are those who understand it is a privilege to be here and dedicate themselves doing a good job from date of arrival until they depart. For any of us that are prior service we all know that jobs are always considered in the best interest of the command and not always based on the personal desire of the employee.

To try and help folks better understand the reasoning for extensions being granted and denied let's take a look at the Command Policy letter and break it down into smaller parts.

1. **"Requests for Overseas Tour extensions** (AE Form 690-300-301B) beyond the initial three (3) year tour will be forwarded in writing by the employee through the Supervisor or Battalion Commanders with their endorsement, through S-1 to Commander, 598th Transportation Brigade for approval/disapproval at least six (6) months prior to end of tour." These are guidelines and there are exceptions to everything. What is important is to get involved with your destiny at the earliest possible moment. If you are not going to be deployed, involved in a project that no one else can do, or you are mission specific and needed in what you do, there is no reason to even expect an extension. The days when extensions were automatic for civilians in Europe are gone. With reduction in forces and unit closures times will get even tougher. Be honest and take a look, are you indispensable or just want to stay in Europe because you like it?

2. **"The three year rule will be the standard for DOD Civilian employees."** As I have explained in the preceding paragraphs, three years are the only agreement that the Department of the Army makes with a civilian. Simply expecting an extension is not something to be considered, look hard at why you are here, how long you have been here, and what your value to the organizations future really is.

3. **“Very few personnel will be extended past three years** and it will be based on mission criticality and exceptional circumstances.” Mission and exceptional circumstances are really pretty simple. Do you remember “Stop Loss?” That is a prime example where the needs of the service dictate how we are utilized. Exceptions are also based on personal circumstances that make sense. An employee that needs to stay an additional 2 months or so is going to be favorably considered if the reason is justified. An employee wanting to stay a year to wait for the new series of BMW’s to be introduced will find that is not a reason to extend.

4. “The three year rule is based on ensuring employees stay fresh and motivated while continuing to increase their professional development. Moreover, this prevents complacency and allows other employees the opportunity to experience an overseas assignment.” Employees in any form of employment must remain fresh

or they lose focus. Whenever an organization sees the workforce is stagnant and non-productive they make changes in operations. Often a workforce can become counterproductive and not even realize it. We also have to remember it is a privilege to serve overseas and to show the local community what the US employees are all about, being professionals.

Yes, it is true every commander is different and you are fortunate your commander has taken the time to make things clear and to let each of us know *we are important as long as we are of value to the productivity of the organization. I hope each of you take the time to do a little self reflection and be totally honest with yourselves. If you still feel things just are not fair... please come see me. I am here to mentor, guide, and direct you and that is exactly what I will do.*

Next time: What happens if I get promoted while assigned overseas? What award has really been earned?

If you have an idea for future articles please drop me an e-mail and I’ll be glad to address it in a future Trans Tribune.

Stephen.L.Marshall3.civ@mail.mil



Darrell L. Caldwell New Director Turkey Detachment



The 839th Transportation Battalion (SDDC) would like to introduce Mr. Darrell Caldwell as the new Turkey Detachment Director. He recently returned from a one-year deployment to Kuwait where he served with Army Materiel Command (AMC) as a Contracting Officers Representative for the Responsible Drawdown from Iraq.

Caldwell brings a wealth of transportation experience. He served in a variety of transportation assignments as a Soldier, both enlisted and officer: Movement NCO/Supervisor (88N), 25th Transportation Battalion, Camp Humphreys, South Korea; Transportation Supervisor (88N), 330th Movement Control Battalion, Fort Bragg, NC; Transportation Officer/Battalion S3 (88A), Osan Air Base South Korea; and Brigade Support Operations Transportation Officer (88A), Brigade Maintenance Officer, 18 Fires Brigade Fort Bragg, NC. He has deployed to Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait in support of Overseas Contingency Operations.

598th Trans BDE (SDDC) members recognized during JEADDC

During an intimate SDDC dinner in the Southern German city of Garmisch Partenkirchen, Major General Kevin A. Leonard took the time to recognize some of his workforce. Here the CG hands 598th Transportation Brigade's (SDDC) Joe Schott his certificate. The picturesque setting of a German stube was the perfect decor to highlight achievements as SDDC's Commanding General said. Fiona Slabbekoorn, Kyle Murray, Stacey Vande Linde, Captain David Mackintosh, Joe Schott, Captain Pat Reardon and Rick Marsh, all 598th Trans BDE personnel, received a certificate of appreciation together with a commander's coin for excellence. They were thanked for their contribution to the Joint EUCOM and AFRICOM Deployment and Distribution Conference (JEADDC) which the CG attended. Members from SDDC present in Garmischi Partenkirchen gathered to enjoy each other's company and some good food. (598th PAO).

■ Photo by Martin Weteling, 598th CAO/PAO



In memory of Hans Platteel

Capelle aan den IJssel, NL – We are sad to inform you that Hans Platteel, Senior Team Leader of the Network Division, S6, 598th Transportation Brigade (SDDC) passed away at the age of 52 on Monday 6 February 2012 at 06:15am.

Hans leaves behind his wife Carin and three children, Anouk, Bas, and Wessel.

The funeral took place on 10 February 2012. More than 50 colleagues from the Rotterdam Community and the 598th Transportation Brigade (SDDC) paid their last respect. They gave their condolences to his wife and family.

We remember Hans Platteel as the Senior Team Leader of the Networks Division for the S-6 who worked with SDDC from 1 April 1987. Hans was known for his dedication and positive attitude he displayed within the community. Hans will be dearly missed.

We wish his wife, children, and family all the strength for the future.
(598th CAO)



African - American Black History Month Ceremony

By Sgt. 1st Class Ursula Harding, 838th Trans BN

The 598th Transportation Brigade presented a delightful African American Black History Month ceremony on Friday, 24th Feb 2012.

The theme for the event was "African American/Black Women in Americans Culture and History". The ceremony began with the reading of the proclamation by Staff Sergeant Perkins and two lovely poems read by Staff Sergeant Hair. Followed by a little history of Black Women along with a slideshow depicting the remarkable things Black women have done presented by Sgt. 1st Class Harding.

It could not have been a successful event without our special guest, Ms. Sharice Welch. She did an outstanding job telling her story of success. Sharice Welch has worked in schools in the USA and abroad and is currently working at the International School of Rotterdam.

This was truly a wonderful event that remembered the African American/Black Women who has and still is doing things to make a difference in our history and culture. ■



■ Guest Speaker Sharice Welch during her speech at the 598th Theater.



► Sgt. 1st Class Ursula Harding showed a slide show depicting leading Black women in history.



■ From left to right: Staff Sgt. Aquanette Hair, Guestspeaker Sharice Welch, Sgt. 1st Class Wanda Allen and Sgt. 1st Class Ursula Harding.

New AAFES - EUROPE Commander, COL Frederick J. Hannah, visits 598th



Rotterdam, NL -- On Feb 13, the Commander of AAFES-Europe and South West Asia Region, Colonel Frederick J. Hannah, accompanied by Command Sgt. Maj. Douglas Dunn visited the 598th Trans DE (SDDC) and Rotterdam Community. Col. Hannah was greeted by Col. William L. Moseley, Commander of the 598th who in turn provided a short briefing on the area, mission, roles, and responsibilities. In addition, Col. Hannah was given a tour of the area including the Coast Guard and Air Force personnel ending in a visit to the Rotterdam AAFES facility. At the end of the tour Col. Hannah, with the assistance of Col. Moseley, presented the AAFES-Europe Commanders coin for excellence to several members of the community.■ (598 PAO)



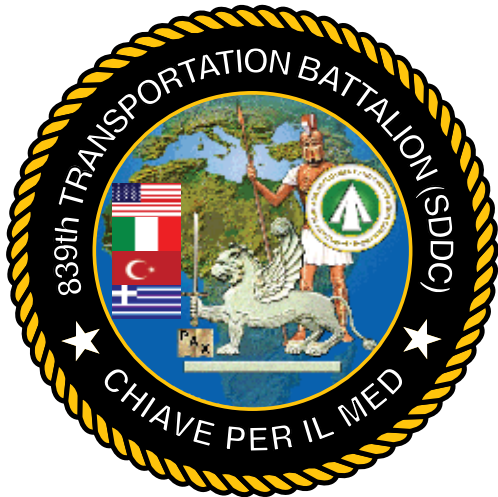
■ Andre Thirkill, (center) 598th Director MWR receives a Commanders Coin from Col. Hannah (right). 598th Commander Col. William Moseley, (left) showed the AAFES commander the Rotterdam AAFES Facility.

■ Photos by Bram de Jong, 598th Trans BDE CAO/Editor

■ Photo by Michael Lanham, Triborder Exchange Manager

Fabiano Bartoli Retired!

Fabiano Bartoli retired from United States Federal Service on 31 December 2011 from the 839th United States Army Transportation Battalion, Livorno, Italy.



■ *Article and Photo by Jessica Doherty*
839th Transportation Battalion
Administrative Support Assistant



■ *Fabiano Bartoli, ready for retirement!*

After 39 years of dedicated service to the United States Government, 25 years with the 839th Transportation Battalion, Fabiano plans to spend his time relaxing with his wife and is hoping that, “grandkids will be along soon.”

He began his career on 8 January 1973 working for the European Exchange Service which is now known as the Army Air Force Exchange Service. He worked for the Army Corps of Engineers, the 839th Transportation, the Department of Public Works, and then back to the battalion in 1993. With the 839th Transportation Battalion, he traveled extensively to ports in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and the United States; serving as a senior Marine Cargo Specialist, first with the 1321st Medium Port Command and then later with the 839th Transportation Battalion.

When asked over the years what his favorite part of the job was he responded, “I like being with the

ships and getting dirty. I really enjoyed the operations part of the job and I really don’t like paperwork or sitting at a desk.”

Getting dirty was definitely something that he never had an issue with doing; on one particular mission to the Ukraine, the port was littered with protesters. In order to complete the mission on time, Fabiano and his crew went to a nearby Ukrainian Navy Base and used a tug boat to ferry themselves to the pier at the commercial port. Once inside the port, Fabiano and his fellow Italian and Turkish colleagues were able to slip through the protesters, pretending to be regular ship hands. Once on the dock, they worked for 36 hours non-stop: completing the mission on time. When asked if he found the night shift difficult, he replied, “I enjoyed the night shift because it was always quiet and I was able to get a lot of work done. We didn’t have VIPs coming in and have to stop work for minor details.”

Fabiano’s enthusiasm and wealth of knowledge is already missed. The countless missions and experience gained make his shoes hard to fill. We wish him the best and hope to see him around the local Camp Darby area. Fabiano: Thank you for your dedicated service and commitment to excellence in serving the United States Government. ■

USAREUR CSM Thomas Capel Visits 598th

USAREUR Command Sergeant Major Thomas Capel celebrates Thanksgiving with the Rotterdam Community.

At the annual Thanksgiving luncheon the Rotterdam Community was honored to welcome the United States Army Europe Command Sergeant Major Thomas Capel. Command Sgt. Maj. visited the Rotterdam Community to spend time with the men and women at the Thanksgiving celebrations. During the luncheon Command Sgt. Maj. Capel served food and had motivating words for all who passed his serving station.

Later in the day Command Sgt. Maj. Capel addressed a captive audience in the 598th Transportation Brigade Gym. Command Sgt. Maj. Capel shared his vision on leadership and dedication with all present.

Following his speech Command Sgt. Maj. Capel expressed his gratitude by handing out the Command Sergeant's Major coin for excellence.

(598th CAO)

■ *USAREUR Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Capel serving food at Hq 598th in Rotterdam, NL.*

■ *Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Capel addressing the Rotterdam Community.*



USAG Schinnen CSM Alicia Castillo Visits 598th

On Thursday 13 October 2011 the 598th Transportation Brigade (SDDC) had the honor to welcome the United States Army Garrison Schinnen Command Sergeant Major.

Command Sgt. Maj. Alicia Castillo came to Rotterdam to be the key-note speaker on the unit's Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations. In a motivating speech Castillo shared her history as a Soldier with a Hispanic heritage with the men and women of the 598th Transportation Brigade (SDDC). Colonel Bill Moseley, one of Castillo's previous supervisors, praised Castillo for her dedication and mentorship and awarded her with a 598th Transportation Brigade (SDDC) plaque.

(598th CAO)

■ *Traditional Spanish dishes were offered after Command Sgt. Maj. Castillo's key-note speech.*

■ *USAG Schinnen Command Sergeant Major Alicia Castillo addressed the Rotterdam Community.*



598th, Directorate of Logistics/S4 Selected as SDDC Representative for Department of the Army Supply Excellence Award Program

By Gary Allen,
598th Trans BDE (SDDC)
S4



■ Col. William L. Moseley presented the Dept. of the Army, Chief of Staff, Supply Excellence Award Winner Plaque to Gary Allen, 598th S4.

Three years running, 598th Transportation Brigade (SDDC) Directorate of Logistics/S4, Property Book Section is the winner for Surface Deployment Distribution Command Headquarters (SDDC), in the Chief of Staff, Army, Supply Excellence Award (SEA) Program within the Property Book level B - II competition. The 598th Property Book Office will represent the SDDC Command at the next Department of the Army Chief of Staff, Supply Excellence Award Program Competition in February 2012.

The Chief of Staff, Army Supply Excellence Award (SEA) program objective is to enhance logistics readiness and supply effectiveness. The SEA provides a positive incentive for extraordinary supply operations, property accountability, and resource management, while enhancing awareness of the Army Command Supply Discipline Program (CSDP). It also provides a forum for performance, improvements, initiatives, and supply operations at the organizational and direct support levels.

Clifton Peterson, Property Book Officer (PBO), heads up the Property Book Team with two local nationals (Miguel Pliru and Clarissa Kayatoe).



■ Second phase of Low Density Supply Training for 838th Trans Bn supply personnel held in Rotterdam, NL and conducted by Clifton M. Peterson, 598th P/BOP and Sgt. 1st Class Wanda Allen 598th S4 NCOIC. The first phase was previously conducted for the 839th Trans Bn in Livorno, Italy.

He formed a partnership with one distinct mission – mentor, coach and train supply personnel to account for property accurately and maintain readiness in support of the Warfighter. Overall management of this operation is superior and well organized. The Property Book Operation is a well organized team. Under the guidance of the Director of Logistics/ S4, Gary E. Allen, the team hosted a quarterly Command Logistics Review Program (CLRP) as they named it “Logistics Readiness Review” VTC to educate their Soldiers, Department of Defense and Local National civilians located in eight locations through the U.S. European Command (EUCOM) on information contained in regulations and policies to ensure equipment on hand (EOH) and equipment fully mission capable (FMC) status ratings throughout the command are maintained and sustained.

The Property Book Officer absolutely demands excellence in all day to day operations while maintaining 100 percent property accountability through the use of Property Book Unit Supply-Enhanced (PBUSE) Technology. The PBO section exceeded Army requirements in all phases of operations by establishing a very effective training program for all employees and providing team building events for a cohesive operation and incentives for all workers to excel. Operation scored 100 percent on their evaluation.

At DA level units, in each category/level, that achieves the highest score, over 90% will be declared the “Winner”. The primary criteria for evaluation are demonstrated success in supply operations, management, training program and resource management responsibilities in compliance with the Army’s Standard Supply policies and procedures and the Army management philosophy. Recommendation for awards will be based solely on location evaluations. Winners and runners-up will receive Plaques at the Annual Command Logistics Excellence Award (CLEA) Ceremony and Banquet June 2013.

OUR ETHOS: Our ultimate goal is to exemplify the 598th Transportation Brigade (SDDC) ethos:

"WARRIOR LOGISTICS - in Motion".

***One Mind- focused on the mission; One Heart- willing to serve;
One Purpose- to keep the force sustained and alive."***■

598th Trans Bde NCO's Attend First Ever NCOPD At Van Ghent Kazerne

Article and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Jaime RamosSantiago, 838th Transportation Battalion OPS NCOIC



Non-Commissioned Officers from the 598th Transportation Brigade (SDDC) lead by Sgt. Maj. Chukwuemeka N. Uchegbu participated in the first ever Professional Development brief/tour of the Van Ghent Royal Netherlands Marine Corps Barracks and their Museum in Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

The event took place on 19 January 2012. NCO's from the Brigade were proudly represented by the NCO's of the Headquarters Company and 838th Transportation Battalion.



▲ NCO's from the 598th Transportation Brigade (SDDC) lead by SGM Chukwuemeka N. Uchegbu listen to one of the briefs that were presented as part of their NCOPD in VKG Barracks on 19 Jan 12.

■ Sgt. Maj. Uchegbu, Sgt. 1st Class Harding, Sgt. Bell and Sgt. Xiong listen as an NCO from the Royal Netherlands Marine Corps provides them with a briefing of their history during the museum visit.



For the occasion, Senior Marine NCO's took time out of their busy schedule to present a briefing on the history of their service and scheduled a tour of their museum. The event was received by the Brigade NCO's as a refresher that allowed them to skip out of the daily operations.

More events like this one will be planned and will be scheduled in the near future. This event also represents the solid friendship and partnership that the United States and the The Netherlands have shared for many years as partners in many military joint training, exercises and missions. ■



■ In this photo, Sgt. Maj. Uchegbu, listens while Staff Sgt. Hair asks questions to Sgt Maj. RNLMC Peter van Lith, as he provides them with a briefing of their history during the museum visit as part of the NCOPD event.

Ergonomics in the office

By Rudy Magereij, Safety Manager 598th Transportation Brigade (SDDC)

***Improving
your work
environment
will improve
your health.***



***Read
further
for some
Office-Ergo
Safety Tips.***

- When writing at the computer, avoid excessive reaching over the keyboard or work material. A sturdy copyholder can double as a writing surface if appropriately positioned.
- Place manuals and other items needed regularly for daily tasks within easy reach. Items that are frequently used and stored on shelves should be placed within the waist and shoulder height ranges. Manuals rarely used should be stored on higher or lower shelves.
- Noise levels in offices should be kept to a minimum. If your office area has cubicle spaces, control the volume of noise and move conference or meetings to conference rooms.
- If possible, move copiers, fax machines, and other noise/heat producing office equipment to areas away from the workers. The noise can be distracting and they can cause heat building-up. It also gives employees an opportunity to stretch if this equipment is located away from the workstation.
- Work at a reasonable pace. Do not rush through tasks skipping lunch, bathroom breaks, and other routine breaks away from the desk. This increases the chances for fatigue and work errors and can cause a general decline in health.
- Schedule short, easy tasks between intensive tasks. Filing or copying papers allows time away from the desk and allows the body to use different positions. (i.e. Standing). These small breaks eliminate feeling of frustration, stiffness and fatigue.
- Take frequently short rest breaks during the day. The break can be brief and should include stretches for optimal results. Take a 5-10 minutes break every hour if possible. Every few hours, try to get up, move around and do an alternative activity. For example, filing paperwork after keyboard work. Eye exercise can reduce eye discomfort and give the eyes a chance to refocus.

***Don't let your office environment become a
"Pain in the neck", or arm, or back,....***